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THE Marketing and Transportation SITUATION

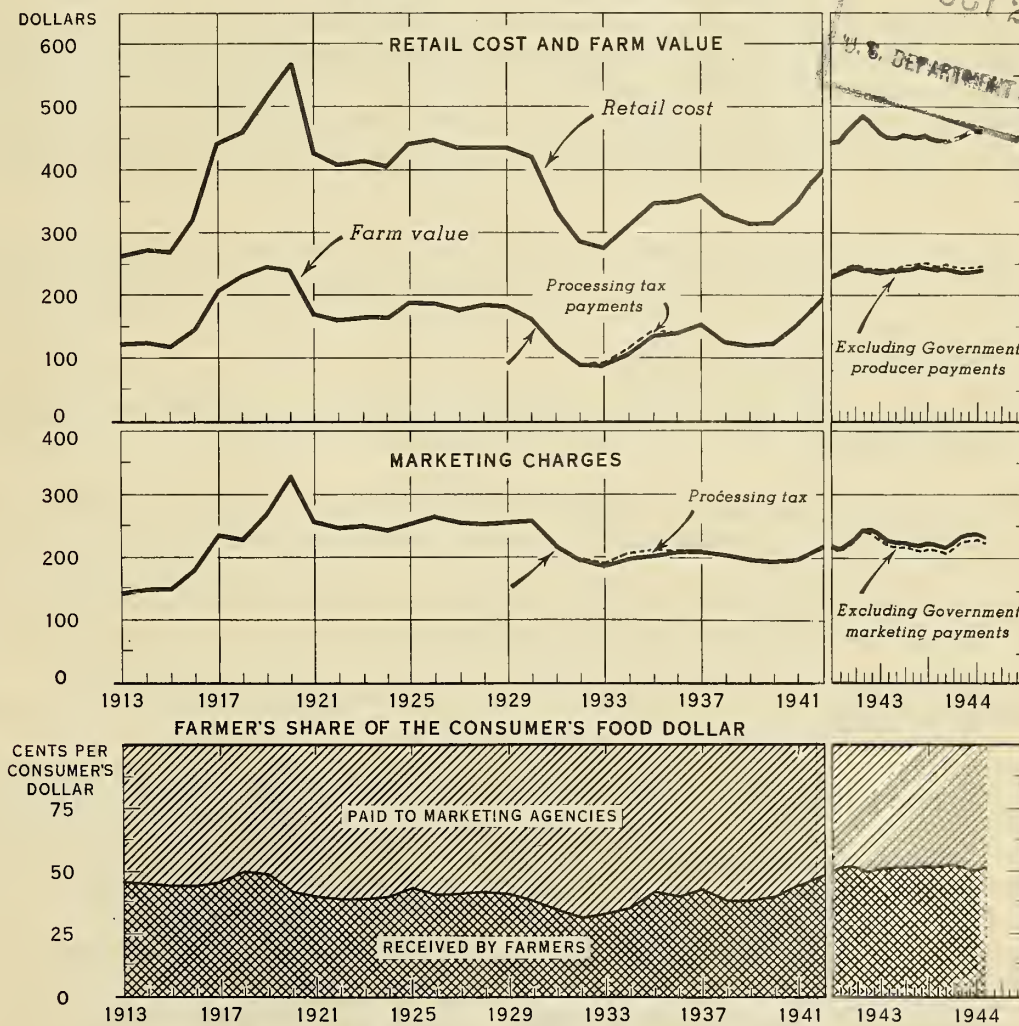
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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SEPTEMBER 1944

THE MARKET BASKET OF FARM FOOD PRODUCTS: RETAIL COST, FARM VALUE, MARKETING CHARGES, AND FARMER'S SHARE OF CONSUMER'S FOOD DOLLAR, 1913-43*



* AVERAGE ANNUAL PURCHASES PER FAMILY OF THREE AVERAGE CONSUMERS, 1935-39

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The farmer's share of the consumer's dollar spent for farm food products dropped to 51 cents in July, 1944 from the record high of 54 cents in March. The increase since 1939 in total charges for marketing farm food products, including Government payments to marketing agencies, has been moderate in comparison to the sharp increases in retail cost and payments to farmers for these products. Marketing charges have not yet reached the levels of the 1920's, although current retail cost and farm value both exceed those levels.

MARKETING AND TRANSPORTATION SITUATION

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NEW ESTIMATES OF FOOD MARKETING CHARGES

Estimates of charges for marketing farm food products, calculated from spreads between retail prices paid by consumers and payments to farmers for equivalent quantities of produce, have for several years been featured in this publication. During the past 2 years, these series have been completely overhauled, revised to more exact specifications, and extended to complete coverage of farm food products. Beginning with this issue the new price spread comparisons will be published and the old series for 58 foods will be discontinued.

Historical series carrying the price spread comparisons by months back to January 1913, where data would permit, have been computed and prepared for publication. This material will be available in a publication scheduled for early release entitled "Price Spreads Between Farmers and Consumers--Food Products". This publication will carry complete details concerning basic data, procedures and interpretation.

Comparison of the new market basket series with those formerly shown for 58 foods is desirable to assist readers to make valid interpretations from the new data.

Some Advantages of the New Series

The revised price spread series incorporate numerous improvements over those previously published for 58 foods. These advantages include:

- (1) Adjustment of retail prices to estimated average levels representing all purchasing consumers, rural and urban.
- (2) Revision of farm produce quantitative equivalents to allow for waste and spoilage losses in marketing.
- (3) Adjustment of farm values to exclude the value of non-food byproducts obtained in processing.
- (4) Revised weighting based upon U. S. average quantities of food purchased by all civilian consumers during the pre-war period 1935-39 incorporated into a "Market Basket" representing average annual purchases for a "family" of three average consumers.
- (5) Breakdown of the market basket by important commodity subgroups expanded to represent complete coverage of all farm food products sold from farms and purchased by civilian consumers and including produce retailed directly from producers to consumers.
- (6) Specific adjustment of price spreads to estimated marketing charges showing Government taxes upon and payments to marketing agencies.
- (7) Extended coverage of farm products increasing from 22 to 47 the number of individual items shown on a monthly basis.

Comparison of New Market Basket Series With Those for the 58 Foods

Final summary data for the new market basket are shown in table 1 and charted on the cover page of this issue. These market basket series cannot be compared directly with the old series for 58 foods because of the completely new weighting employed. The revised market basket quantities refer to 1935-39 purchases of all farm food products by a family of three average consumers, while the 58 foods weighting applied to average annual purchases of a smaller number of items in 1918 by a city workingman's family of 4.9 persons. Choice of family size at three persons was arbitrary, but is close to the average number of persons per purchasing unit in the United States.

A striking feature of the revised series is the lower level shown for the farmer's share of the consumer's dollar spent for farm food products. The revised estimate of the farmer's share amounted to 52 cents for the year 1943 compared to a previous estimate of 57 cents, based on the 58 foods. For July 1944, the new market basket share is 51 cents, while the share formerly shown for 58 foods was 55 cents for the same month. The 1935-39 pre-war average farmer's share was 40 cents for the new market basket compared to 42 cents calculated from the 58 foods series. Although the revised series runs below that for the 58 foods, month-to-month and year-to-year changes, as well as short-time trends, shown by the two series measuring the farmer's share are quite similar.

The expansion of commodity groups to cover all farm food products, instead of limiting the coverage to items for which price data are available, about offsets the decrease in family size from 4.9 for the 58 foods to 3.0 for the market basket. Retail cost for the five pre-war years 1935-39 averaged \$340 for the market basket compared to \$332 for the 58 foods, while in July 1944 retail cost was \$464 for the new market basket compared to \$446 for the 58 foods.

In expanding the market basket to represent complete coverage of farm food products from the limited number of items for which price data were available, most of the expansion adjustment occurred in the following commodity groups: Fresh and processed fruits and vegetables, cereal products including bakery products, and miscellaneous products. This means that the group of 58 foods for which no such expansion was attempted had been overweighted in meat, dairy and poultry products through the substantially complete coverage of these groups in contrast to less complete coverage of the commodity groups specified above. Most livestock products return a relatively high share of the consumer's dollar to farm producers and their overweighting in the old series is one reason why the farmer's share for 58 foods exceeded that for the new market basket.

A more pronounced rise from 1935-39 to 1944 in the marketing margin and charges for marketing farm food products is indicated by the new series than by the 58 foods series. From 1935-39 to July 1944, the marketing margin (spread between retail cost to consumers and payment to farmers for equivalent produce) for the market basket rose by 13 percent, from \$203 to \$229, compared to an increase of only 4 percent, from \$191 to \$199, for the 58 foods.

Total marketing charges are estimated by adding to the marketing margin an amount representing Government payments to marketing agencies on the quantities of products contained in the market basket. For July 1944 these payments amounted to \$12, while in 1935-39 processors paid to the Government about \$2 in taxes. Total marketing charges for the market basket increased from a \$201 average for 1935-39 to \$241 in July 1944, an increase of 20 percent over pre-war. In comparison, total marketing charges for the 58 foods increased from \$189 to \$215 during the same period, an increase of 14 percent.

Estimated Government payments to marketing agencies totaled \$12 for the new market basket in July 1944 compared to \$16 for the 58 foods. The higher level of Government payments for the 58 foods was due principally to the relatively heavier weighting of meat and dairy products on which the bulk of Government payments are made.

What is the "Market Basket"

In order to make valid estimates of marketing charges for all food products sold by farmers which reach domestic civilian consumers, it was necessary to weight together prices, margins, and charges, for individual commodities by quantity weights proportional to the relative importance of each commodity in total marketings of all farm food products. The pattern of relative importance was determined for the pre-war 5-year period 1935-39. Total farm sales were taken as a starting point. These quantities were reduced by quantities exported, used for industrial purposes, or sold into other channels not destined for final consumption by civilian consumers, and the results averaged over total population. These averages were multiplied by three to determine quantities representing 1935-39 average purchases per "family" of three average consumers. This set of quantities constitutes the "Market Basket," and is used for weighting items within commodity groups as well.

Limitation of products covered in the market basket to produce sold from farms and purchased by consumers, of course, excluded substantial quantities of produce consumed in households of producers, as well as produce of non-farm origin such as fishery products and imported foods. Averaged over 1935-39, retail cost of the market basket of farm food products was \$340, while retail cost of additional purchased foods of non-farm origin accounted for \$48 more and retail value of foods consumed in households of producers was \$67, making a total food consumption value per family of \$455.

Charges for Marketing Farm Food Products Since 1913

Estimates of total charges for marketing farm food products included in the market basket, after adjustment for Government taxes and payments affecting marketing agencies, are shown in table 1 by years from 1913 to 1942 and by months for 1943 and 1944. The record high in marketing charges, on the basis of annual averages, was \$321 for the year 1920. The lowest level is recorded for 1913, the first year of the series, at \$140. As shown in the cover chart, food marketing charges held quite stable during the 1920's at a level close to \$250. The pattern of stability was repeated for the 1930's at a lower level averaging close to \$200. During the recent war years, marketing charges have increased but not nearly as much as in World War I. From 1939 to 1943, marketing charges rose 17 percent, while from 1914 to 1918, the rise was 52 percent. During the two years following 1918, food marketing charges increased another 52 percent to reach the record high level of \$321 in 1920, but this developed during a period of uncontrolled post-war inflation. It entailed a consequent sharp reduction in the farmer's share of the consumer's food dollar, from 51 to 43 cents.

Retail Cost and Farm Value of Market Basket Below Record Highs

Retail cost to the consumer of the market basket was \$459 in August 1944. This cost was \$109 lower than the record high cost of \$568 for the year 1920 and about equaled retail cost for the year 1918. The lowest level of retail cost following World War I was \$276 in 1933.

Trends shown by the retail cost of the market basket of farm food products agree quite closely with trends in the retail food price index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Reasons for discrepancies between these two series include: First, use of retail price data other than those collected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in computing retail cost of the market basket; and second, restriction of commodities in the market basket to purchased farm food products only, excluding foods of non-farm origin such as fish, tea, coffee, and imported sugar.

Payments to farmers for quantities of produce equivalent to the foods contained in the market basket, after deducting imputed value of non-food byproducts obtained in processing, amounted to \$237 in August 1944. Those payments exceeded the 1935-39 pre-war average by \$100 or 73 percent. The record high annual average in farm value was recorded at \$250 for 1919. During several months of 1943 and 1944 the farm value has reached within \$10 of this level, the recent high occurring in April 1943 at \$245.

Adjustments eliminating imputed values of byproducts from the farm value of market basket produce result in adjusted farm values that show trends which differ somewhat from the trends in unadjusted farm value calculated directly from farm prices without allowance for byproducts. Comparison of adjusted and unadjusted series shows that byproducts were relatively more important during periods of high prices, particularly during the current war period. The elimination of a larger fraction of value through the byproduct adjustment in the recent high price period diminishes the increase in adjusted farm value of the market basket relative to the increase in prices received by farmers, and accentuates the rise in marketing margins.

Price Spread Comparisons Available for Many New Items.

The revised price spreads are available by months for many more individual commodities than were formerly shown under the 58 foods. Currently, these include 47 individual food items, considering the composite of all beef products, all pork products, and all lamb products, as single items, compared to 22 items quoted by months under the 58 foods. This greater detail includes the breaking-down of dairy products into four individual items--fluid milk, butter, American cheese, and evaporated milk--which formerly were grouped under the "dairy products" composite. In addition, the breakdown of the market basket into six major commodity groups is shown by months. These major groups include: Meat products, dairy products, poultry and eggs, fresh and processed fruits and vegetables, cereal products, and miscellaneous products. The cereal products group is further broken down into bakery products and other cereal products. The total fruits and vegetables group is sub-divided into canned fruits and vegetables, and fresh fruits and vegetables, with a fresh vegetable group shown for recent years. This commodity group breakdown makes it possible to determine at a glance the contribution of each class of farm food products to changes shown for the total market basket.

New items included on a monthly basis within the market basket include a number of fresh vegetables for which the publication of prices received by farmers was recently begun. Other items now placed on a monthly basis include several products for which farm prices are available only on a seasonal-average basis. Monthly estimates of payments to farmers for these products were computed by lagging and weighting together two or more seasonal prices according to their contribution to the current month's market supply. Several vegetable oil products have been added.

The degree of detail by food items and commodity groups which is now available is illustrated in figure 2, showing the farmer's share of retail cost to consumers for each item and group.

Farmer's Share of Retail Cost Varies Widely Among Foods

Figure 2 shows the farmer's share of retail cost for the entire market basket, averaging 40 cents for the pre-war years 1935-39, but averaging 52 cents for 1943. The farmer's share, by commodity groups, for 1935-39 shows poultry and eggs ranking at the top with a share of 66 percent of retail cost and bakery products at the bottom with a share of 9 percent of retail cost. The farmer's share for other commodity groups was 54 percent for meat products, 50 percent for dairy products, 35 percent for fresh fruits and vegetables, 34 percent for cereal products other than bakery, 19 percent for miscellaneous products, and 14 percent for canned fruits and vegetables.

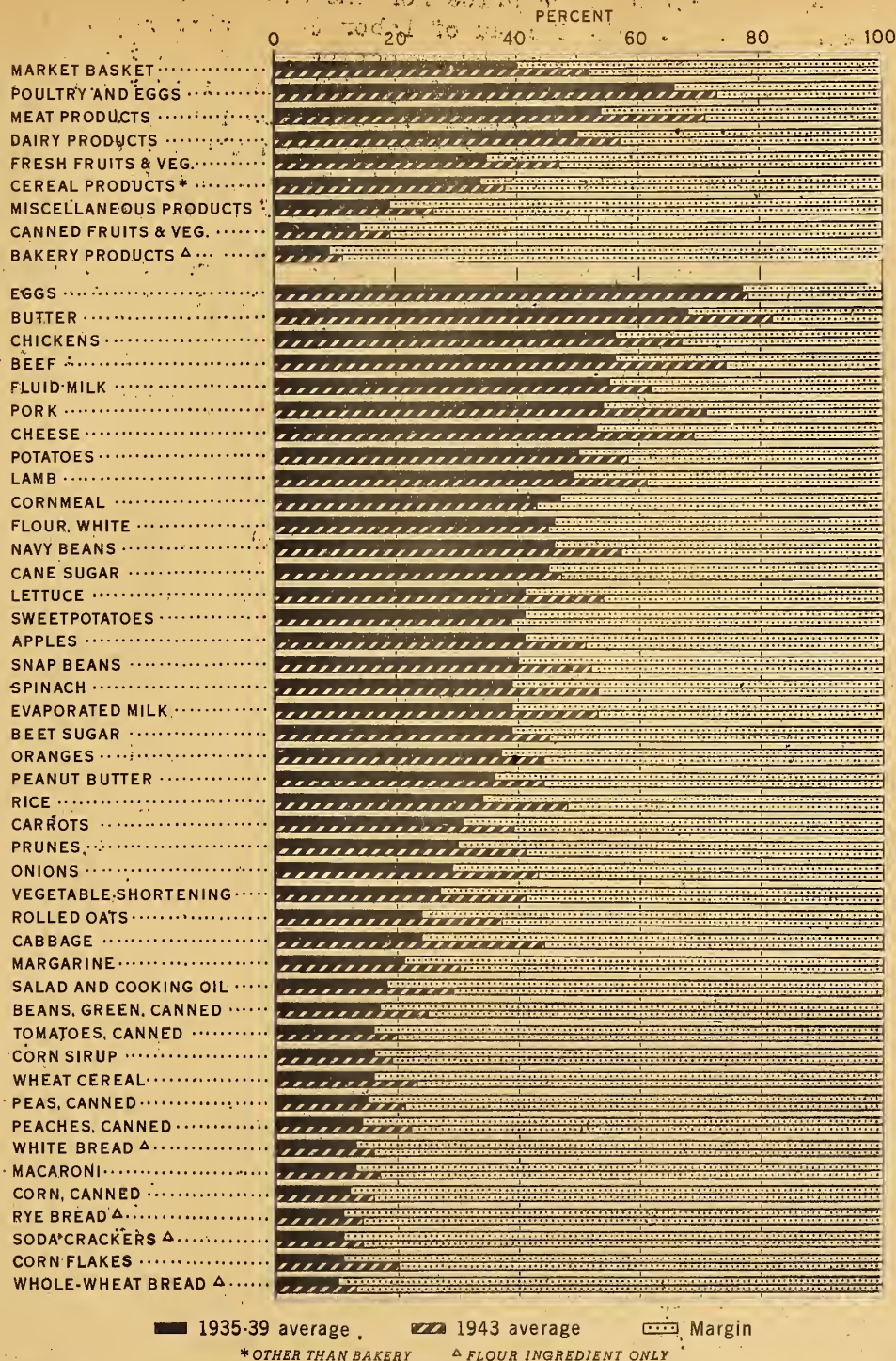
The farmer's share of retail cost for individual food products on the basis of 1935-39 averages ranged from a high of 77 percent for eggs to a low of 10 percent for whole wheat bread. The farmer's share for the bakery products group averages lower than his share for any of the four individual bakery items because of the allowance in the group for miscellaneous other bakery products, including a number of specialty items such as sweet rolls, doughnuts, and cakes. The farmer's share averages highest for livestock products, including meat, dairy, poultry, and egg products, and averages lowest for the highly processed bakery products, and canned fruits and vegetables. The shares for fresh fruits and vegetables, cereal products other than bakery, and miscellaneous products, fall between these extremes.

The farmer's share of retail cost shows a considerable increase from the 1935-39 pre-war level to 1943 for all commodity groups and for all individual items, excepting cornmeal, white flour, and sweet potatoes. Government payments to marketing agencies, which caused the marketing margin to remain narrower than otherwise would have been the case, contributed to the increase in the farmer's share for several items, notably meat products, butter, and cheese. The greatest absolute increase in the farmer's share from 1935-39 to 1943 is registered for meat products, which rose from 54 percent to 71 percent.

Retail Prices Estimated for U. S. Average Consumer

Heretofore, calculation of the retail cost of 58 foods had been based entirely upon the retail price data for cities, collected and published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. These data are intended to represent prices paid by wage earners and lower-salaried workers in large cities. The Bureau of Labor Statistics has never claimed that these prices represent averages for all retail purchases in the United States. For the purposes of this revision it was desirable to adjust retail prices to levels most representative of all civilian consumer purchases in the United States. This was accomplished by combining, where feasible, retail price series published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for cities, with retail prices compiled by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics for several thousand smaller cities and towns not covered by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. To the combined series a constant percentage adjustment factor is applied to bring the average price level for 1935-39 in line with an estimated level representing all civilian consumer purchases as determined from the two sources just mentioned supplemented by data from extensive consumer surveys for 1935-36 and for 1942. For the majority of items, adjustment of the retail price series was rather minor, but in a few cases the adjustments were substantial. Certain of the more important adjustments were necessitated by the fact that some retail prices are quoted for a specific description or quality other than the average grade for the commodity concerned.

FARM FOOD PRODUCTS: FARMER'S SHARE OF RETAIL COST, 1935-39 AVERAGE AND 1943



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FIGURE 1

This figure emphasizes the wide variation in the farmer's share of retail price among farm food products. This variation is due chiefly to the extent and cost of marketing services required to transfer products from farmers to consumers, in relation to costs of farm production. The farmer's share averages highest for livestock products and lowest for cereal products and canned fruits and vegetables. General increases in the farmer's share from 1935-39 to 1943 are indicated. Government payments to marketing agencies have been an important factor in these increases for a number of products.

Retail prices of chickens and eggs required special treatment. Available series for these two products referred to particular descriptions and qualities which reflected neither the true average price nor the average seasonal pattern for all classes of these products. The Bureau of Labor Statistics regularly prices the highest grade of eggs sold in volume by reporting stores, while their quotations for chickens have applied to a variety of specifications over the last 15 years. The final estimated U. S. average retail price series for eggs and chickens used in these price spread calculations are different from the series currently available from other sources, but it is believed that the new series are more nearly representative of average prices paid by consumers for all qualities purchased.

In order to represent all purchases by civilian consumers, the retail price estimates necessarily include prices paid for produce purchased by consumers directly from farmers. These purchases are most important for fluid milk, poultry, eggs, and some garden produce. On the quantities of products marketed directly from producers to consumers, marketing charges and farm-retail price spreads are, of course, nonexistent.

Few Adjustments in Prices Received by Farmers

Estimates of prices received by farmers as published by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics have consistently represented sales of all types by all producers in the United States. No further adjustment is needed to make these series more representative of total volumes of produce sold by farmers and purchased by civilian consumers. However, in a few cases the coverage of the farm price series is too broad to compare with the available retail price data and it was necessary to estimate prices received by farmers for narrower categories of those products involved. This type of adjustment was required to obtain series of prices received by farmers for good-grade beef cattle, navy beans, durum wheat before 1929, white corn, and dairy products classified by item of consumer purchase. Monthly payments to farmers were estimated for canning crops, sugar beets, sugar cane, and prunes, by lagging and weighting together available seasonal average prices for these products. Details of these adjustments are described in the publication referred to in the second paragraph of this report.

Resume: Publication of Price Spreads for Beef Products

Publication of price spreads for beef products among the 58 foods was suspended in 1937 because of questionable comparability between retail prices of beef carcass products and the reported price received by farmers from sale of beef cattle of all descriptions. Some of the defects in the original series have been eliminated in new series now published for the first time, involving special adjustments for grade and byproducts. Investigation and analysis showed that available retail prices of carcass cuts averaged close to Good grade. Before calculating farm-retail price spreads and marketing charges for these products it was necessary to estimate prices received by farmers from sale of Good grade beef cattle, including steers, heifers, and cows. These estimates were derived by calculating the average wholesale-price premium in several important markets for Good grade steers, heifers, and cows over the average cost to packers for all beef cattle, and applying this premium to the average price received by farmers for all beef cattle. Prices received by farmers for all beef cattle are periodically revised on the basis of data showing average cost to packers and certain preliminary adjustments of this nature are used currently in the price spread comparisons for beef products.

During the first 5 months of 1944 the estimated marketing charge per composite retail pound of beef products ranged from 9.6 to 10.0 cents, after including the Government payment to processors amounting to 2.0 cents. These marketing charges

for early 1944 compare with 10.6 cents in 1943, 11.1 cents in 1942, and the 1935-39 pre-war average of 12.9 cents. But during the 3 months following May 1944 marketing charges, including Government payments, per composite pound of beef products declined to 7.6 in June, 6.6 cents in July and 7.3 cents in August. The reduction of marketing charges into July and August is not a normal seasonal change.

Whether this recent development represents a real decline in charges of marketing agencies or is caused in part by changes in types of products reflected in the retail and farm price series is difficult to determine.

During the recent war years, particularly 1944, there may be some question as to whether retail prices of beef products continue to average so high as Good grade. If they average lower, comparison of the retail price with the estimated price received by farmers for Good grade cattle will, of course, show a farm-retail margin which is too small to represent the marketing margin for all beef products moving from farmers to consumers.

The recent removal of lower grades of beef from rationing restrictions may have increased the proportion of low grade price quotations averaged into retail prices of beef, as reported by merchants unable to stock the higher grades. Available data do not permit a quantitative evaluation of the possible distortion which such developments introduce into estimates of beef marketing charges. A substantial shift in retail price toward lower grades would invalidate calculation of price spreads from the series adjusted to the Good grade level. If the farm-retail price spread is calculated directly from the spread between the price received by farmers for 2.16 pounds of all beef cattle, adjusted for byproducts, and the U. S. average retail price per pound, and the Government processor payment added, the adjusted spread is slightly greater in August than in January 1944. If the January-August percentage increase in charges for marketing beef products shown by these comparisons is substituted for the decline shown by the Good grade comparisons, then the estimated marketing charges for the meat products group in August 1944 would be increased from \$30 to \$34 and marketing charges for the total market basket would be changed from \$234 to \$238.

Byproducts Important for Meats and Grains

One of the features of the revised market basket series is the allowance for value of non-food byproducts obtained in processing, where these are of appreciable importance. Byproduct allowances are particularly important for meat products and for the several cereal products. In calculating the market basket price spread series, the allowance for byproducts was made by subtracting from the farm value of equivalent produce an imputed valuation, at the farm level, of the non-food byproducts. The imputed valuation was determined from the relative value of byproducts to total products sold by processors. This procedure is arbitrary, as is any other method of byproduct allowance, but is believed preferable to adding retail value of non-food byproducts to retail value of the food market basket.

The allowance for byproducts is of particular significance during a period of advancing prices and heavy demand for byproduct items such as has developed during the last few years. Relatively higher prices of byproducts means an increasingly larger deduction from the unadjusted farm value resulting in a wider farm-retail spread than would be calculated from the unadjusted data. Therefore, allowance for byproducts can affect trends in the estimates of marketing charges as well as the absolute level of the estimates.

Byproduct allowances for lamb products amounted to as much as 30 percent of the farm value of live lambs. This allowance is particularly important during the season when the lamb pelts carry fairly long wool. In calculating the marketing margin for white flour during the fall of 1943, it was found that feed byproducts

obtained in milling wheat amounted to about 20 percent of the combined value of flour and feeds, and the farm value of grain was reduced by this percentage to determine the imputed value of flour in the grain at the farm level.

Payments to Farmers for Bakery Ingredients Other Than Flour

Bakery goods are processed from a variety of ingredients of farm origin in addition to the principal flour ingredient. Farm food products of importance in other bakery ingredients include sugar, lard, vegetable shortening, processed milk, eggs, and a variety of other items.

These other bakery ingredients have been neglected in calculating farm value and margins for individual bakery products, but full allowance for them is made in the "bakery products" commodity group, and payments to farmers for produce equivalent to all ingredients including flour, and for flour alone, are shown separately. The farm value of other bakery ingredients in the bakery products group was \$4.22 in August 1944, almost equal to the net farm value (after allowance for byproducts) of the flour ingredient which amounted to \$4.65.

Quantities of ingredients used in processing bakery products (and ingredients of confectionery products included under the miscellaneous products group) have been eliminated from the other commodity groups in which they would fall, to prevent duplication and double counting of these materials.

FARM-RETAIL PRICE SPREADS, AUGUST 1944

Charges for marketing the family market basket of farm food products dropped 3 percent, from \$241 in July to \$234 in August 1944. This is the first decline in marketing charges interrupting the steady increase which began at \$219 in March 1944. Those estimates of marketing charges include adjustment for Government payments to marketing agencies and taxes paid by processors of certain items.

The July-August decline of about \$7 in marketing charges for the market basket is accounted for principally by lower marketing charges for two commodity groups--fresh fruits and vegetables and meat products. Marketing charges for the first group dropped almost \$6 or 8 percent, while charges for marketing meat products declined almost \$1 or 3 percent.

The farmer's share of the consumer's dollar spent for farm food products rose from 51 cents in July to 52 in August. The farmer's share has ranged from 51 to 54 cents for all months since July 1943. The annual average share of 52 cents for 1943 was the highest on record, even exceeding the World War I high of 51 cents reached in 1918. One factor accounting for the relatively high farmer's share in 1943 and 1944 is the Government payments to food processors and other food marketing agencies enabling them to pay farmers higher prices, and to sell to consumers at lower prices, than otherwise would be possible.

From July to August 1944 the consumer's retail cost of the market basket declined 1 percent from \$464 to \$459 while payments to farmers for equivalent produce, adjusted for value of byproducts, increased 1 percent from \$235 to \$237. The decline in retail cost of the market basket is accounted for almost entirely by the fresh fruits and vegetables group because of a 19 percent drop in the retail price of apples. The bulk of the increase in payments to farmers was divided between fresh vegetables and poultry and eggs, amounting to 4 percent for the fresh vegetable group and 3 percent for poultry and eggs.

Table 1.- The Market Basket: Retail cost of 1935-39 average annual purchases of farm food products by a family of three average consumers, farm value of equivalent quantities sold by producers adjusted for value of byproducts, marketing margin, and farmer's share of the consumer's food dollar, 1913-44

Year	Retail cost 1/	Farm value adjusted for byproducts 2/	Farm value plus government producer payments 3/	Margin	Marketing charges: (including tax and payment adjustments) 4/	Farmer's share 5/	Marketing charges as percentage of retail cost
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Percent
1913	264	124	---	140	140	47	53
1914	272	125	---	147	147	46	54
1915	267	120	---	147	147	45	55
1916	321	145	---	176	176	45	55
1917	442	210	---	233	233	47	53
1918	458	235	---	223	223	51	49
1919	513	250	---	263	263	49	51
1920	568	245	---	321	321	43	57
1921	427	172	---	255	255	40	60
1922	408	163	---	245	245	40	60
1923	413	166	---	247	247	40	60
1924	406	166	---	240	240	41	59
1925	442	191	---	251	251	43	57
1926	448	188	---	260	260	42	58
1927	434	180	---	254	254	41	59
1928	435	185	---	250	250	43	57
1929	435	183	---	252	252	42	58
1930	421	165	---	256	256	39	61
1931	339	121	---	218	218	36	64
1932	284	92	---	192	192	32	68
1933	276	90	92	186	184	33	67
1934	311	107	116	204	195	34	63
1935	347	138	147	209	200	40	58
1936	349	143	---	206	206	41	59
1937	362	156	---	206	206	43	57
1938	328	128	---	200	200	39	61
1939	316	122	---	194	194	39	61
1940	317	128	---	189	189	40	60
1941	347	154	---	193	193	44	56
1942	407	196	---	211	211	48	52
1943 -							
January ...	440	225	225	215	215	51	49
February ..	443	232	232	211	212	52	48
March	460	241	242	219	219	52	48
April	474	245	246	229	229	52	48
May	484	238	239	246	248	49	51
June	478	238	239	240	247	50	52
July	460	232	233	228	237	50	52
August	451	233	234	218	227	52	50
September ..	451	237	238	214	223	52	49
October	454	238	243	216	225	53	50
November ...	452	239	244	213	223	53	49
December ...	452	242	247	210	222	53	49
Average ..	458	237	239	221	226	52	49
1944 -							
January ...	453	242	248	211	223	53	49
February ..	449	239	245	210	223	53	50
March	447	241	250	206	219	54	49
April	451	238	247	213	226	53	50
May	456	235	241	221	234	52	51
June	460	236	242	224	236	51	51
July	464	235	241	229	241	51	52
August	459	237	243	222	234	52	51

- 1/ Calculated from retail prices collected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.
2/ Payments to farmers for equivalent quantities of farm produce minus imputed value of byproducts obtained in processing.
3/ Includes Government payments to producers of selected products except benefit, conservation, and parity payments after 1935.
4/ Marketing charges equal margin minus processor taxes plus Government payments to marketing agencies.
5/ Farmer's share of consumer's food dollar calculated from farm value before addition of producer payments.

Table 2.- Food cost and expenditures compared with total income per person,
United States average 1/

Year and month	Food expenditures			Cost to consumer of fixed				
	Total			As percentage of quantities of foods repre-				
	expendi-			Total				
	tures			expendi-				
Year and month	Total	for	Actual	Total	for	Actual	Total	penditures
	income	consumer	income	income	goods	income	income	for goods
	:	and	:	:	and	:	:	and
	:	services	:	:	services	:	:	services
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Pct.	Pct.	Dol.	Pct.	Pct.
1935-39 average:	520	456	118	23	26	118	23	26
1942	857	612	199	23	33	149	17	24
1943	1,042	685	219	21	32	170	16	25
Annual rates by months, seasonally adjusted								
1944 - Apr.	1,120	706	223	20	32	170	15	24
May	1,127	787	230	20	29	170	15	22
June	1,133	719	229	20	32	170	15	24

1/ See notes in original table p. 3, April-May 1943 issue.

Table 3.- Indexes of consumer income and of hourly earnings in marketing,
1935-39 = 100

Year and month	Monthly earnings in marketing enterprises			Hourly earnings in marketing enterprises		
	Nonagri-			Class I		
	cultural			steam		
	income			railways		
Year and month	payments			factory		
	1/			worker 2/		
	:			:		
	:			:		
1929	122	118	93	---	---	---
1935-39 average	100	100	100	100	100	100
1941	138	132	106	116	110	119
1942	170	166	119	128	120	139
1943	207	196	121	139	130	152
1943 - July	209	194	119	140	130	152
August	210	197	120	140	131	151
September ...	211	201	121	140	132	154
October	213	204	121	142	133	153
November	217	205	123	145	134	153
December	219	202	124	146	132	153
1944 - January	222	205	132	146	135	154
February	224	206	137	146	135	154
March	225	207	133	146	135	156
April	224	206	134	147	137	161
May	226	209	133	149	138	163
June	6/228	6/210	133	149	138	164
July	7/229	7/205	134	147	138	165

1/ United States Department of Commerce estimates. Adjusted for seasonal variation. Revised series. 2/ Prepared in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from data of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, adjusted for seasonal variation. 3/ Compiled from data published by the Interstate Commerce Commission. 4/ Bureau of Labor Statistics. 5/ Weighted composite of earnings in steam railways, food processing, wholesaling, and retailing. 6/ Revised. 7/ Preliminary estimates.

1/ Groes farm value before adjusting for good grade premium was 22.7 cents.

Table 6.- Price spreads between farmers and consumers - food products: Retail price and farm value, August 1944

Commodity	Retail unit	Retail price						Net farm value 1/						
		1936-39: August		July		August 1944 from		1936-39: August		July		August 1944 from		
		average: 1943		1944		August 1944		average: 1943		1944		August 1944		
		Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Percent	
Market basket		1540.43	451.23	464.26	439.01	2	- 1	137.44	232.99	236.44	236.56	2	2/	
Meat products		88.09	102.80	101.23	100.78	- 2	2/	46.36	73.36	76.41	78.85	2	1	
Dairy products		67.27	88.02	88.98	88.96	1	0	33.47	60.78	51.40	51.62	2	2/	
Poultry and eggs	1935-39 annual average	28.47	41.12	36.37	40.27	- 2	3	17.56	31.06	28.93	27.82	- 10	3	
Bakery and other cereal products, all ingredients	quantities purchased	36.09	82.32	63.82	63.64	2	2/	11.39	17.54	18.78	18.43	6	- 2	
Grain	per family of three	---	---	---	---	---	2/	9.04	13.30	14.64	14.21	7	- 3	
Bakery products, all ingred.	of three	36.83	38.44	38.66	38.66	0	2/	6.41	8.59	8.93	8.87	3	- 1	
Grain	average	---	---	---	---	---	---	3.06	4.35	4.79	4.66	7	- 3	
Other cereal products	consumers	18.48	23.68	25.27	26.08	3	- 1	6.98	8.96	9.85	9.66	7	- 3	
All fruits and vegetables		77.68	124.14	138.78	133.02	7	- 4	23.91	50.11	63.05	62.92	6	0	
Fresh fruits and vegetables		57.64	98.25	113.48	107.67	9	- 5	20.30	43.60	43.37	45.13	4	- 1	
Fresh vegetables		33.32	64.75	67.44	67.09	4	- 1	11.48	22.95	22.62	23.52	2	4	
Canned fruits and vegetables		14.14	17.60	16.98	17.05	- 3	1	1.92	3.60	4.14	4.22	17	2	
Miscellaneous products		25.97	32.83	32.41	32.38	- 1	2/	4.77	8.16	8.87	8.92	9	1	
		Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Percent	Percent	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Percent	Percent	
Beef (good grade)	Lb.	29.1	33.8	33.4	33.1	- 1	- 1	16.2	26.0	28.8	27.8	7	- 3	
Lamb	Lb.	26.6	36.4	36.2	35.1	- 1	2/	13.2	21.6	22.1	21.0	- 4	- 6	
Pork	Lb.	22.8	26.2	23.6	23.5	- 3	0	11.7	19.0	17.7	18.8	- 1	6	
Butter	Lb.	36.0	49.4	49.0	49.0	- 1	0	23.9	40.7	41.0	41.0	2	0	
Cheese, American	Lb.	26.9	38.1	38.0	38.0	- 2/	0	13.6	24.8	24.8	26.5	3	3	
Evaporated milk	14 1/2 oz. can	7.3	10.3	10.4	10.4	- 1	0	2.86	6.37	3.37	6.66	6	5	
Fluid milk	Qt.	11.4	14.3	14.7	14.7	3	0	6.32	8.67	8.83	8.83	2	0	
Eggs	Doe.	29.0	31.8	43.7	49.1	- 5	7	22.3	40.0	32.1	34.0	- 15	8	
Chicken	Lb.	30.0	39.2	39.3	40.2	3	2	16.9	29.1	27.5	27.4	- 8	0	
White bread	Lb.	9.1	9.4	9.4	9.4	0	0	1.08	1.33	1.68	1.63	7	- 3	
Whole wheat bread	Lb.	9.6	10.4	10.3	10.2	- 2	- 1	.90	1.34	1.46	1.42	6	- 3	
Rye bread	Lb.	10.0	10.7	10.3	10.6	- 2	0	1.04	1.32	1.72	1.68	11	- 2	
Soda crackers	Lb.	16.0	17.6	18.1	18.2	3	1	1.67	2.37	2.80	2.52	6	- 3	
Corn flakes	8 oz. pkg.	7.9	6.8	6.7	6.8	- 3	- 1	.84	1.44	1.37	1.67	9	0	
Corn meal	Lb.	3.0	5.0	6.7	6.7	14	0	1.40	2.16	2.31	2.31	7	0	
Flour, white	Lb.	3.9	5.4	6.8	6.7	6	- 2	1.67	2.37	2.60	2.32	6	- 3	
Macaroni	Lb.	14.9	15.6	16.7	15.8	1	1	1.87	2.48	2.90	2.80	14	- 3	
Rice	Lb.	7.2	11.8	11.9	12.0	2	1	2.37	6.26	3.80	6.47	4	- 2	
Rolled oats	Lb.	7.3	8.8	9.9	10.0	14	1	1.74	3.36	4.00	3.67	10	- 8	
Wheat cereal	28 oz. pkg.	24.2	23.4	23.0	23.2	- 1	1	3.66	3.33	6.86	6.89	7	- 3	
Apples	Lb.	4.9	9.8	16.8	13.3	38	- 19	2.03	4.84	6.89	4.76	- 2	- 19	
Grapefruit	Each	3/	9.1	9.6	9.9	9	3	---	4.24	4.50	4.81	13	7	
Oranges	Doe.	29.8	49.4	48.4	48.3	- 2	0	11.0	23.9	24.8	25.7	8	4	
Beets	Bunch	3/	8.7	7.3	7.3	- 18	- 3	---	3.60	2.85	2.39	- 26	- 9	
Beans, snap	Lb.	11.3	13.6	13.2	13.8	2	5	4/	4.49	6.68	6.19	8.06	23	30
Cabbage	Lb.	3.4	4.6	4.4	4.5	0	2	3/	.81	1.90	2.23	2.43	28	9
Carrots	Bunch	6.4	8.1	8.6	8.7	7	1	1.69	2.78	4.33	3.66	32	- 16	
Lettuce	Head	8.7	12.6	10.1	10.7	- 14	6	3/	3.61	6.68	4.04	6.81	3	69
Onions	Lb.	4.3	8.4	7.7	6.9	- 18	- 10	3/	1.30	3.40	2.93	2.87	- 18	- 2
Potatoes	Lb.	2.3	4.2	3.2	6.2	24	0	1.26	2.73	2.40	2.77	1	16	
Spinach	Lb.	7.2	13.7	10.5	11.9	- 13	13	4/	2.84	8.29	6.42	7.02	- 16	30
Sweetpotatoes	Lb.	4.0	12.4	11.8	10.7	- 14	- 9	1.65	6.87	4.89	5.26	- 7	12	
Grapefruit juice, canned	No. 2 can	3/	14.7	14.6	14.7	0	- 1	3/	4.30	3.72	6.08	18	- 11	
Peaches, canned	No. 2 1/2 can	18.7	28.8	27.7	27.7	3	0	2.33	6.79	6.23	7.06	22	13	
Beans, green, canned	No. 2 can	11.4	14.5	13.1	13.2	- 9	1	1.96	4.01	3.85	3.85	- 4	0	
Corn, canned	No. 2 can	12.1	14.3	14.7	14.8	3	1	1.60	2.22	2.79	2.80	26	0	
Peas, canned	No. 2 can	16.8	14.8	13.1	13.1	- 10	0	2.29	3.34	3.24	3.26	- 3	0	
Tomatoes, canned	No. 2 can	9.4	12.8	12.0	12.1	- 4	1	1.49	2.45	3.13	3.13	28	- 1	
Prunes	Lb.	10.0	16.9	17.3	17.6	4	1	2.99	7.29	9.22	9.22	28	0	
Navy beans	Lb.	8.5	9.6	10.0	10.1	6	1	3.02	6.26	5.69	6.89	12	0	
Beet sugar	Lb.	6.7	7.2	7.2	7.2	0	0	1.73	2.36	2.91	2.91	23	0	
Cane sugar	Lb.	3.6	7.0	7.0	6.9	- 1	- 1	1.78	2.33	2.88	2.88	6	0	
Corn sirup	24 oz.	11.3	12.9	13.0	13.0	1	0	1.79	2.68	2.81	2.81	9	0	
Margarine	Lb.	18.1	24.0	24.2	24.0	0	- 1	4.30	7.96	8.46	8.38	8	2	
Salad and cooking oil	Pt.	24.5	30.6	30.6	30.6	0	0	4.44	8.97	8.85	8.90	- 1	1	
Vegetable shortening	Lb.	19.6	23.7	23.6	23.6	0	0	5.21	9.51	10.14	10.26	8	1	
Peanut butter	Lb.	17.6	30.2	26.8	26.8	- 16	0	6.1	12.3	16.2	16.1	31	- 1	

1/ Adjusted to exclude imputed value of non-food byproducts obtained in processing.

2/ Less than 0.6 of one percent.

3/ Price data not available.

4/ Estimated for 1936-39 from data available for 1937-39.

Table 6.- Price spreads between farmers and consumers - food products: Margins, and farm value as percentage of retail price, August 1944

Commodity	Retail unit	Margins 1/				Percentage change to		Farm value as percentage of retail price			
		1935-39 average	August 1943	July 1944	August 1944	August 1944 from August 1943	July 1944	1935-39 average	August 1943	July 1944	August 1944
		Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Market basket	()	203.01	218.24	228.82	222.45	+ 2	- 3	40	52	51	52
Meat products	()	41.74	27.45	24.82	23.91	- 13	- 4	53	73	75	76
Dairy products	()	33.80	37.24	37.56	37.34	2/	- 1	50	58	58	58
Poultry and eggs	1935-39 annual average	8.91	10.97	11.44	12.45	+ 24	+ 9	66	76	70	69
Bakery and other cereal products, all ingredients	quantities purchased per family of three average	43.70	44.78	45.04	45.21	+ 1	2/	21	28	29	29
Grain	consumers	31.22	29.85	29.62	29.69	- 1	2/	15	22	23	23
Bakery products, all ingred.	quantities purchased per family of three average	12.48	14.93	15.42	15.52	+ 4	+ 1	32	37	39	38
Grain	consumers	12.48	14.93	15.42	15.52	+ 4	+ 1	32	37	39	38
Other cereal products	()	12.48	14.93	15.42	15.52	+ 4	+ 1	32	37	39	38
All fruits and vegetables	()	53.67	74.03	86.42	80.10	+ 8	- 7	31	40	38	40
Fresh fruits and vegetables	()	37.34	54.75	68.09	62.44	+ 14	- 8	35	44	40	42
Fresh vegetables	()	21.84	31.80	34.92	33.57	+ 6	- 4	34	42	39	41
Canned fruits and vegetables	()	12.22	14.00	12.82	12.83	- 8	2/	14	20	24	25
Miscellaneous products	()	21.20	24.67	23.54	23.44	- 5	2/	18	25	27	28
		Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Beef (good grade)	Lb.	12.9	7.6	4.6	5.3	- 30	+ 15	56	77	86	84
Lamb	Lb.	13.6	13.6	13.1	14.1	+ 4	+ 8	49	62	63	60
Pork	Lb.	10.9	7.2	7.8	6.7	- 7	- 14	52	73	69	74
Butter	Lb.	11.1	8.7	8.0	8.0	- 8	0	68	82	84	84
Cheese, American	Lb.	12.3	13.3	13.2	12.5	- 6	- 5	53	65	65	67
Evaporated milk	14 oz. can	4.6	5.1	5.0	4.7	- 8	- 6	39	51	52	54
Fluid milk	Qt.	5.1	5.6	5.9	5.9	+ 5	0	55	61	60	60
Eggs	Doz.	6.7	11.8	13.6	15.1	+ 28	+ 11	77	77	70	69
Chicken	Lb.	13.1	10.1	12.0	12.8	+ 27	+ 7	56	74	70	68
White bread	Lb.	8.0	7.9	7.7	7.8	- 1	+ 1	12	16	18	17
Whole wheat bread	Lb.	8.7	9.1	8.7	8.8	- 3	+ 1	9	13	14	14
Eye bread	Lb.	9.0	9.2	8.8	8.8	- 4	0	10	14	16	16
Soda crackers	Lb.	14.3	15.2	15.5	15.7	+ 3	+ 1	10	13	14	14
Corn flakes	8 oz. pkg.	7.1	5.4	5.1	5.0	- 7	- 2	11	21	23	24
Corn meal	Lb.	1.6	2.8	3.4	3.4	+ 21	0	47	43	41	41
Flour, white	Lb.	2.2	3.0	3.2	3.2	+ 7	0	43	44	45	44
Macaroni	Lb.	13.0	13.1	12.8	13.0	- 1	+ 2	13	16	18	18
Rice	Lb.	4.8	6.6	6.3	6.5	- 2	+ 3	33	44	47	46
Rollod oats	Lb.	5.6	5.4	5.9	6.3	+ 17	+ 7	24	38	40	37
Wheat cereal	28 oz. pkg.	20.5	18.1	17.1	17.5	- 3	+ 2	15	23	25	25
Apples	Lb.	2.9	5.0	10.7	8.8	+ 76	18	41	49	35	35
Grapefruit	Each	3/	4.9	5.1	5.1	+ 4	0	3/	47	47	49
Oranges	Doz.	18.8	25.5	23.6	22.8	- 11	- 3	37	48	51	53
Beets	Bunch	3/	5.2	4.7	4.7	- 10	0	3/	40	38	35
Beans, snap	Lb.	6.8	6.9	7.0	5.7	- 17	- 19	40	49	47	58
Cabbage	Lb.	2.6	2.6	2.2	2.1	- 19	- 5	24	42	51	54
Carrots	Bunch	3.7	5.3	4.3	5.0	- 6	+ 16	31	34	50	42
Lettuce	Head	5.1	5.9	6.1	3.9	- 34	- 36	41	53	40	64
Onions	Lb.	3.2	5.0	4.8	4.0	- 20	- 17	29	40	38	42
Potatoes	Lb.	1.3	1.5	2.8	2.4	+ 60	- 14	50	65	46	53
Spinach	Lb.	4.4	5.4	5.1	4.9	- 9	- 4	39	61	52	59
Sweetpotatoes	Lb.	2.4	6.7	7.1	5.4	- 19	- 24	41	46	40	49
Grapefruit juice, canned	No. 2 can	3/	4/ 10.4	9.1	9.6	- 8	+ 5	3/ 4/ 29	39	39	35
Peaches, canned	No. 2 can	16.2	21.0	21.5	20.6	- 2	- 4	14	22	22	25
Beans, green, canned	No. 2 can	9.4	10.5	9.3	9.4	- 10	+ 1	17	28	29	29
Corn, canned	No. 2 can	10.6	12.1	11.9	12.0	- 1	+ 1	12	16	19	19
Peas, canned	No. 2 can	13.3	11.3	9.9	9.8	- 13	- 1	15	23	25	25
Tomatoes, canned	No. 2 can	7.9	10.2	8.9	9.0	- 12	+ 1	16	19	26	26
Prunes	Lb.	7.0	9.6	8.1	8.3	- 14	+ 2	30	43	53	53
Navy beans	Lb.	3.5	4.3	4.1	4.2	- 2	+ 2	46	55	59	58
Best sugar	Lb.	4.0	4.8	4.3	4.3	- 10	0	30	33	40	40
Cane sugar	Lb.	3.7	4.5	4.3	4.2	- 7	- 2	32	36	38	39
Corn sirup	24 oz.	9.7	10.3	10.2	10.2	- 1	0	16	20	22	22
Margarins	Lb.	13.8	16.0	15.8	15.4	- 4	- 3	24	33	35	36
Salad and cooking oil	Pt.	20.1	21.5	21.8	21.7	+ 1	2/	18	29	29	29
Vegetable shortening	Lb.	14.3	14.2	13.5	13.3	- 6	- 1	27	40	43	43
Peanut butter	Lb.	11.5	17.9	9.6	9.8	- 45	+ 2	35	41	63	62

1/ Before adjustment for Government taxes and payments to marketing agencies. See table 5

2/ Less than .5 of one percent.

3/ Price data not available.

4/ Estimated.

Table 7.- Price spreads between farmers and consumers - food products: Marketing charges adjusted for Government taxes upon and payments to marketing agencies, August 1944

Commodity	Retail unit	Government marketing taxes and payments 1/				Marketing charges 2/				Percentage change to		
		1935-39 average	August 1943	July 1944	August 1944	1935-39 average	August 1943	July 1944	August 1944	August 1944 from August 1943	August 1944 from July 1944	August 1944 from July 1944
		Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Percent	Percent
Market basket	()	-1.98	9.31 -0.37	12.06 -0.37	11.78 -0.37	201.03	227.18	240.51	233.86	3	-	3
Meat products	()	-1.09	6.40	6.42	6.40	40.65	33.85	31.24	30.31	-10	-	3
Dairy products	()	---	2.49	2.61	2.60	33.80	39.73	40.17	39.94	1	-	1
Poultry and eggs	1935-39 annual average	---	---	---	---	8.91	10.07	11.44	12.45	24	9	
Bakery and other cereal products, all ingredients	quantities purchased	-.66	-.05 14	-.05 1.51	-.05 1.23	43.04	44.87	46.50	46.39	3	3/	
Grain	per family	-.61	---	1.38	1.10	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Bakery products, all ingred.	of three	-.28	-.05 14	-.05 1.81	-.05 1.68	30.94	29.94	30.38	30.32	1	3/	
Grain	average	-.23	---	.68	.55	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Other cereal products	consumers	-.38	---	.70	.55	12.10	14.93	16.12	16.07	8	3/	
All fruits and vegetables	()	---	14	1.08	1.11	53.67	74.17	87.50	81.21	9	-	6
Fresh fruits and vegetables	()	---	---	.01	.01	37.35	54.75	68.10	62.45	14	-	8
Fresh vegetables	()	---	---	---	---	21.84	31.80	34.92	33.51	6	-	4
Canned fruits and vegetables	()	---	14	.55	.57	12.22	14.14	13.37	13.40	-	5	3/
Miscellaneous products	()	-.24	-.32 14	-.32 144	-.32 144	20.96	24.49	23.66	23.56	-	4	3/
		Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Percent	Percent	Percent
Beef (good grade)	Lb.	---	2.0	2.0	2.0	12.9	9.6	6.6	7.3	-	24	11
Lamb	Lb.	---	1.6	1.7	1.6	13.6	15.2	14.8	15.7	3	-	6
Pork	Lb.	0.06	1.8	1.8	1.8	10.3	9.0	9.6	8.5	-	6	-
Butter	Lb.	---	5.0	5.0	5.0	11.1	13.7	13.0	13.0	-	5	0
Cheese, American	Lb.	---	3.77	3.77	3.77	12.3	17.1	17.0	16.3	-	5	-
Evaporated milk	14 1/2 oz. can	---	---	---	---	4.6	5.1	5.0	4.7	-	8	-
Fluid milk	Qt.	---	.03	.08	.08	5.1	5.6	6.0	6.0	7	0	
Eggs	Doz.	---	---	---	---	6.7	11.8	13.6	15.1	28	11	
Chickens	Lb.	---	---	---	---	13.1	10.1	12.0	12.8	27	7	
White bread	Lb.	-.08	---	.19	.16	7.9	7.9	7.9	8.0	1	1	
Whole wheat bread	Lb.	-.07	---	.14	.12	8.6	9.1	8.8	8.9	-	2	1
Rye bread	Lb.	-.08	---	.13	.11	8.9	9.2	8.9	8.9	-	3	0
Soda crackers	Lb.	-.14	---	.15	.08	14.2	15.2	15.6	15.8	4	1	
Corn flakes	8 oz. pkg.	-.01	---	---	---	7.1	5.4	5.1	5.0	-	7	-
Corn meal	Lb.	-.02	---	---	---	1.6	2.8	3.4	3.4	21	0	
Flour, white	Lb.	-.13	---	.24	.18	2.1	3.0	3.4	3.4	13	0	
Hominy grits	24 oz. pkg.	-.03	---	---	---	7.0	---	---	---	---	---	
Macaroni	Lb.	-.14	---	.27	.29	12.9	13.1	13.1	13.3	2	2	
Rice	Lb.	-.10	---	---	---	4.7	6.6	6.3	6.5	-	2	3
Rollod oats	Lb.	---	---	---	---	5.6	5.4	5.9	6.3	17	7	
Wheat cereal	28 oz. pkg.	-.26	---	.65	.55	20.2	18.1	17.8	18.0	-	1	1
Apples	Lb.	---	---	.01	.01	2.9	5.0	10.7	8.8	76	-	18
Grapefruit	Each	---	---	---	---	---	4.9	5.1	5.1	4	0	
Oranges	Doz.	---	---	---	---	18.8	25.5	23.6	22.8	-	11	-
Beets	Bunch	---	---	---	---	---	5.2	4.7	4.7	-	10	0
Beans, snap	Lb.	---	---	---	---	6.8	6.9	7.0	5.7	-	17	-
Cabbage	Lb.	---	---	---	---	2.6	2.6	2.2	2.1	-	19	-
Carrots	Bunch	---	---	---	---	3.7	5.3	4.3	5.0	-	6	16
Celery	Stalk	---	---	---	---	6.9	---	---	---	---	---	
Lettuce	Head	---	---	---	---	5.1	5.9	6.1	3.9	-	34	-
Onions	Lb.	---	---	---	---	3.2	5.0	4.8	4.0	-	20	-
Potatoes	Lb.	---	---	---	---	1.3	1.5	2.8	2.4	60	-	14
Spinach	Lb.	---	---	---	---	4.4	5.4	5.1	4.9	-	9	-
Sweetpotatoes	Lb.	---	---	---	---	2.4	6.7	7.1	5.4	-	19	-
Grapefruit juice, canned	No. 2 can	---	---	2.1	2.1	---	---	11.2	11.7	---	4	
Peaches, canned	No. 2 can	---	---	.1	.1	16.2	21.0	21.6	20.7	-	1	-
Beans, green, canned	No. 2 can	---	.6	.8	.9	9.4	11.1	10.1	10.3	-	7	2
Corn, canned	No. 2 can	---	.2	.7	.7	10.6	12.3	12.6	12.7	3	1	
Peas, canned	No. 2 can	---	.6	.9	1.3	13.3	11.9	10.8	11.1	-	7	3
Tomatoes, canned	No. 2 can	---	.1	.6	.6	7.9	10.3	9.5	9.6	-	7	1
Prunes	Lb.	---	---	2.5	2.5	7.0	9.6	10.6	10.8	12	2	
Navy beans	Lb.	---	---	.7	.7	3.5	4.3	4.8	4.9	14	2	
Beet sugar	Lb.	-.35	-.54	-.54 149	-.54 149	3.6	4.3	4.2	4.2	-	2	0
Cane sugar	Lb.	-.35	-.54	-.54 18	-.54 18	3.3	4.0	3.9	3.8	-	5	-
Corn sirup	24 oz.	-.03	---	---	---	9.7	10.3	10.2	10.2	-	1	0
Margarine	Lb.	-.61	-.51 144	-.51	-.51	13.2	15.9	15.3	14.9	-	6	-
Salad and cooking oil	Pt.	-.03	---	---	---	20.1	21.5	21.8	21.7	1	3/	
Vegetable shortening	Lb.	---	.54	---	---	14.3	14.7	13.5	13.3	-	10	-
Peanut butter	Lb.	-.34	---	4.5	4.5	11.2	17.9	14.1	14.2	-	21	1

1/ Tax paid by marketing agency denoted by minus sign, payment by Government to agency by plus sign.

2/ Calculated from marketing margin (table) minus tax plus Government payment.

3/ Less than 0.5 of one percent.

Table 8 .- Farm products: Indexes of prices at several levels of marketing,
1935-39 = 100

Year and month	Foods					Fibers				
	Cost	Retail	Whole-	Prices	Retail	Whole-	Prices	Whole-	Prices	
	of	prices	sale	re-	prices	sale	re-	sale	re-	Prices
	living	of farm	prices	ceived	of	of	ceived	received	of	received
	city	products	3/	farmers	cloth-	textile	farmers	all	farmers	paid
	fa-	2/		2/	ing	pro-	for	farm	for all	farm-
	miles					ducts	cotton	pro-	pro-	ers
	1/				1/	3/	and	ducts	ducts	5/
							wool	3/	5/	
							4/			
1913	71	78	81	90	69	81	110	94	95	81
1914	72	80	82	91	70	77	97	94	94	80
1916	78	94	96	106	78	99	131	111	110	99
1918	108	135	151	171	128	193	280	195	190	141
1920	143	167	174	178	201	232	281	198	196	161
1929	122	128	126	133	115	127	167	138	139	123
1932	98	83	77	67	91	77	55	63	63	87
1935	98	102	106	100	97	100	108	104	101	100
1936	99	103	104	104	98	101	114	106	106	99
1937	103	106	108	114	103	107	111	114	114	105
1938	101	96	93	93	102	94	81	90	90	99
1939	99	93	89	89	100	98	87	86	88	97
1940	100	93	90	93	102	104	98	89	93	98
1941	105	102	105	112	106	119	131	108	115	105
1942	116	120	126	143	124	136	177	139	148	122
1943	124	135	135	172	130	137	190	161	179	134
1935-Aug.	99	91	85	82	100	95	96	80	83	95
Sept.	101	95	95	91	100	101	92	90	91	98
1943-Aug.	123	132	134	170	129	137	189	163	179	135
Sept.	124	132	133	172	132	137	192	162	180	135
Oct.	124	133	133	175	133	137	192	161	181	136
Nov.	124	133	134	175	134	138	185	160	181	137
Dec.	124	133	134	177	135	138	189	160	182	139
1944-Jan.	124	133	133	176	135	138	192	160	182	139
Feb.	124	132	132	174	135	138	189	161	182	140
Mar.	124	131	132	175	137	138	189	163	182	140
Apr.	125	132	133	173	137	138	192	162	182	140
May	125	134	133	171	137	138	189	162	181	140
June	125	135	135	172	138	138	192	165	180	141
July	126	136	134	172	138	138	194	163	179	141
Aug.	126	135	133	174	139	139	192	161	180	141

1/ From "Changes in Cost of Living" Bureau of Labor Statistics.

2/ Calculated from data compiled for "Price Spreads Between Farmers and Consumers - Food Products", Bureau of Agricultural Economics, 1944.

3/ Calculated from data of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

4/ Cotton and wool prices weighted by production in the period 1935-39.

5/ Based on figures published by the Crop Reporting Board.

